

Claims: What is claimed is:

1. A method for augmenting a printer driver, comprising: providing a GUI for selecting at least one plug-in module; and dynamically adding the at least one plug-in module to the printer driver.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the adding of the at least one plug-in module comprises copying at least one plug-in DLL file to a printer system folder.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the adding of the at least one plug-in module comprises checking compatibility of at least one plug-in DLL file with the printer driver.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the adding of the at least one plug-in module comprises the at least one plug-in module installing itself.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the adding of the at least one plug-in module comprises adding at least one registry entry.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the adding of the at least one plug-in module comprises heap-allocating and initializing at least one private devmode structure.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein the heap is a private devmode area following a public devmode area.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein the heap is fixed size.

9. The method of claim 6, wherein each of the at least one private devmode structure corresponds to each of the at least one plug-in module added, each of which implements an optional feature selected from the group consisting of feature sets, Page Description Languages (PDLs), and Renders.
10. The method of claim 1, further comprising: providing a GUI by which a user selects at least one plug-in module; and removing the at least one plug-in module from the printer driver.
11. The method of claim 10 wherein the removing of the at least one plug-in module comprises deallocating at least one private devmode structure.
12. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one plug-in module is stored at a remote storage on the network.
13. The method of claim 1, wherein the adding of the at least one plug-in module comprises checking at least one registry entry for at least one added plug-in module; and copying at least one DLL file corresponding to the added at least one plug-in module from a server to a client.
14. The method of claim 1, wherein the adding of the at least one plug-in module comprises adding at least one GUI tab for the added at least one plug-in module.
15. A computer program product for augmenting a printer driver, comprising machine-readable program code for causing a machine to perform the method steps of: providing a GUI for selecting at least one plug-in module; and dynamically adding the at least one plug-in module to the printer driver

16. The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the dynamically adding of the at least one plug-in module comprises copying at least one plug-in DLL file to a printer system folder; checking compatibility of the at least one plug-in DLL file with the printer driver; and adding at least one registry entry.

17. The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the dynamically adding of the at least one plug-in module comprises heap-allocating and initializing at least one private devmode structure.

18. The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the at least one plug-in module is stored at a remote storage on the network.

19. A printing system, comprising: a print engine; and a printer driver programmed to augment the printer driver by performing the steps of providing a GUI for selecting at least one plug-in module; and dynamically adding the at least one plug-in module to the printer driver.

20. The printing system of claim 19, wherein the adding of the at least one plug-in module comprises copying at least one plug-in DLL file to a printer system folder; checking compatibility of the at least one plug-in DLL file with the printer driver; and adding at least one registry entry.

21. The printing system of claim 19, wherein the adding of the at least one plug-in module comprises heap-allocating and initializing at least one private devmode structure.

22. The printing system of claim 19, wherein the at least one plug-in module is stored at a remote storage on the network.